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(*d*) if electric power from Pykara is brought in, what will be the rate for each unit; and

(*e*) whether there is any feasibility to develop electricity from Mettur dam when it is completed?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government lines have already been laid. The licensees expect to supply electricity to Salem by December 1931. It cannot be said at present when the supply to Erode will commence.

(*c*) It is expected that power from Pykara will be supplied in April 1933.

(*d*) Such rates as may from time to time be fixed, with the approval of the Government, subject to the maximum rates specified in clause 27 of the Fourth Annexure to the Salem-Erode Electric Licence, 1931, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 6th January 1931.

(*e*) Yes.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to develop electricity at Mettur? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" There is some such idea."

Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Has the Octavius Steel Company applied for extending their licence to various other parts than those for which they have already taken the licence? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Notice, Sir."

Prisons

Alleged complaints against Mr. Howe, Superintendent of the Vizagapatam Jail.

* 571 *Q.*—Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when Mr. Howe was transferred to Vizagapatam Jail;

(*b*) the number and class of jail offences and nature of punishments awarded from the date of his assumption of duties till the 15th July 1931;

(*c*) the number of complaints, signed, anonymous and pseudonymous, received by the Government and Inspector-General of Prisons about the affairs of Vizagapatam Jail from the said date;

(*d*) what are, in general, the complaints narrated therein;

(*e*) what action the Inspector-General of Prisons or the Government have taken on them; and

(*f*) how many times the Inspector-General visited the jail during the period?

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A.—(a) He joined duty as Superintendent of the Central Jail, Vizagapatam, on 9th March 1931.

(b) Twelve major offences were committed during the period. The punishments awarded were handcuffs, bar fetters, cross bar fetters, reduction of grade and reduction of remission.

(c) Four signed petitions were received by the Government and one by the Inspector-General of Prisons.

(d) It was represented in the petitions that prisoner Sri Hari Rao went on hunger strike because he was treated like an ordinary prisoner and supplied with unwholesome food. It was suggested that he might be released and that his friends might be allowed to interview him.

(e) On receipt of the petition by the Inspector-General of Prisons, it was immediately referred to the Superintendent who reported that the prisoner had stopped hunger strike. Messrs. V. L. Sastri and Kaleswara Rao were allowed by the Superintendent to interview the prisoner. The question of release was considered by the Government and was decided against. The hon. Member is also referred to the answers to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 430. There is no truth in the allegation that the prisoner was given unwholesome food.

(f) The jail was not inspected by the Inspector-General during the period.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I ask whether the hon. the Law Member has noticed that, wherever Mr. Howe went, he was followed by complaints?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I am not aware of that."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I ask whether the hon. the Law Member is aware that, so long as he was in Madras Penitentiary, there were some complaints against him?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" There were some complaints in this Council regarding what he is alleged to have done."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I know if the hon. the Law Member did not make any enquiry into those allegations?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Enquiries were made and answers were given here."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I know whether the other complaints in regard to the Vizagapatam Jail are in the nature of the complaints which were received while Mr. Howe was in Madras?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Complaints of a different kind altogether."

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know if, after Mr. Howe was transferred to the Vizagapatam Jail, there has been a cessation of complaints from the Madras Penitentiary? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Has the Government received any complaints, Sir? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether the hon. the Law Member will enquire as to why these complaints come wherever Mr. Howe goes? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not admit the correctness of the premises of my friend's question."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Sir, the hon. the Law Member just now admitted that, when Mr. Howe was here, there were many complaints and that when he went to Vizagapatam, there have been complaints there also. Does he mean to say that there are no complaints against him at all? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I meant nothing of the kind. As a matter of fact, the answer says that there have been complaints and the Inspector-General enquired into those complaints."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Were there complaints in Vizagapatam before Mr. Howe went there? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Sir, is the hon. the Law Member aware that Mr. Sri Hari Rao was on hunger-strike for 66 days and yet it was not thought necessary either by the Inspector-General of Prisons or even by the hon. the Law Member himself to go and visit the jail? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" There was no need for me to go there."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" I want to know whether he did not consider it such an important and serious matter as to necessitate his going and seeing the jail himself? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No; in fact a Member of Government is not expected to inspect any place for reasons like this."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know if the Inspector-General of Prisons visited the place? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"He did enquire into the complaint."

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Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" Then he did not go there personally? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" No."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" Why? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Because it was not necessary."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" Did he realize then that this was not a serious matter—a man being on death-bed? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" In the first place he was not on death-bed; in the second place, the Inspector-General made enquiries."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Did the Inspector-General know that it was customary for Mr. Howe to have such complaints received against him wherever he went? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I refuse to answer a question pitched in that key, Sir."

Supply of food to the civil prisoners in the Central Jail at Vellore.

* 572 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the civil prisoners in the Central Jail at Vellore are supplied with food prepared by convicts and served to convicts in the Central Jail; and

(*b*) on whose initiative and for what reasons the food intended for convicts is given to civil debtors in the Central Jail?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information but have called for it.

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar :—" Will the Government be pleased to call for the information as there is much discontent over this matter? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I have called for the information and the answer states that. I do not know why the hon. Member puts a supplementary question without reading the answer already on the paper."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" Sir, is the hon. the Law Member right in making such remarks against questions put by hon. Members of the House? "

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member of Government is quite entitled to call the attention of the hon. Member who is putting the supplementary question to the answer already on paper."